

generated in federally supported laboratories and clinics benefits all of our citizens. We must also ensure that there is a diverse health care and research workforce in the future by making efforts to attract and train a generation of scientists and health care professionals who are

prepared to dedicate themselves to helping eliminate health disparities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1880, approved November 22, was assigned Public Law No. 106–525.

Statement on Signing the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 *November 22, 2000*

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2712, the “Reports Consolidation Act of 2000.” This Act, which passed with bipartisan support, provides permanent authority for Federal agencies to consolidate certain financial and performance reports into a single, comprehensive annual report.

This Act builds on the success of a pilot program started in 1994 and represents an important step in the maturity of financial management reporting by the Federal Government. An agency can now combine its audited financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act, and its performance reports, re-

quired by the Government Performance and Results Act.

These new consolidated reports will give the American people a more comprehensive and useful picture of the many important services we provide to the Nation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: S. 2712, approved November 22, was assigned Public Law No. 106–531.

Exchange With Reporters in Thurmont, Maryland *November 23, 2000*

Thanksgiving

The President. Hi, guys. Happy Thanksgiving.

Q. What are you thankful for, Mr. President?

The President. I have a lot to be thankful for this year. I’ve got my family here. They’re all in good health; they’re all doing well. I’ve got my two nephews here. I’m very grateful for how good the people of New York were to Hillary, and I’m very grateful the country’s in good shape. I’ve got a lot to be grateful for.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Sir, do you think the Supreme Court will get involved in the Florida situation?

The President. I think the law on that is pretty clear, and there’s no point on my commenting on that. I don’t think I should comment about it.

Q. Thankful you’re not in this election this year? Wish you were?

The President. I think that the less I say about this right now, the better. I just want everybody who tried to vote—legally voted—to have their votes count, including the service people—everybody. I think that’s what they’re trying to do, and I hope there will be time to do it. I think that the position that I’ve taken on this all along is, we ought to just do the right thing and enfranchise everybody that could possibly

do it but let the thing play out. There's a process under way, and the courts will do what they're going to do. That's the way it ought to be. And I don't think I should comment.

I'll tell you, I am thankful that I live in a country with enough faith in its democracy that we're all letting this thing play out. Comedy shows are having fun with it. We're all laughing about it. The two candidates seem to be in a fairly good humor about it. When I was in Asia, I had a couple of people tell me that

in some countries people would be in the streets over this. Instead, we trust our system. We just have to trust it, whether we agree with it or disagree with it. Let it play out. I just hope that we don't run out of time.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. at Maple Run Golf Course. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address

November 25, 2000

Good morning. All across America, friends and families are still savoring the joys—and the leftovers—of a bountiful Thanksgiving. This weekend also marks the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. But even as many of us head out to buy that perfect gift for those we love, millions of Americans are also extending their generosity to people they've never met.

Last year Americans gave a record \$190 billion to charitable causes: to feed the hungry, immunize children, build homes, tutor immigrants, restore parks, and send disaster relief to hard-hit people all around the world. Working with America's extensive network of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, we're making a difference, but we still have more to do.

Today I'm releasing a report from the Council of Economic Advisers that examines this resurgence of charitable giving and outlines proposals to further cultivate public generosity. I'm also announcing the launch of a new \$2 million privately funded initiative designed to introduce more young Americans to the rewards of charitable giving.

Both of these efforts emerged from last year's White House Conference on Philanthropy, which Hillary and I organized to showcase America's great tradition of giving. To keep the momentum going, we also formed a task force on nonprofits and governments which will soon issue a roadmap for creating innovative partnerships between nonprofit organizations and Federal agencies. We're tackling America's toughest challenges together and making the most of the American people's enduring spirit of generosity.

Now, according to the Council of Economic Advisers, charitable gifts now exceed 2 percent of our gross domestic product, the highest level of giving in nearly three decades. Sustained by a strong economy and rising incomes, charitable giving has jumped more than 40 percent since 1995. At the same time, both donors and charities have become much more sophisticated, often using the Internet for research, education, and, increasingly, to make contributions.

Overall, 70 percent of America's households made charitable contributions last year, even those who didn't have much extra to spare. In fact, half of all Americans with incomes of less than \$10,000 made a charitable contribution. And as a percentage of their net wealth, families with the lowest incomes gave much more than the wealthiest. That's both humbling and inspiring, and suggests a tremendous potential for growth in charitable giving by well-to-do Americans.

This new report also reveals that people over the age of 65 are much more likely to make charitable contributions than younger people, even after accounting for differences in income and wealth. Perhaps, having earned the wisdom of a lifetime, seniors understand that the satisfaction of charitable giving cannot be measured in dollars and cents. And they know that personal generosity is an essential ingredient in the mortar that binds our entire community together.

Given this truth, how can we do a better job of engaging younger Americans in giving? We know already that they care about their